

# Many Football Experts Predict Captain of the 1915 Harvard Eleven Will Eclipse Performances of His Former Side Partner—Luck a Misnomer In Gridiron Game

## Will Mahan Prove Greater Than Brickley?



Photo by American Press Association.

EDDIE MAHAN.

AROUND the person of Charles Brickley, Percy Houghton built the Harvard system of football that has prevailed the past three years. It swept the crimson to the crest and held it there despite the desperate assaults of Princeton, Yale and a host of lesser lights through three seasons of hectic play. When Brickley was stricken with ap-

pendicitis last year it seemed the system was about to collapse. Penn State and Washington and Jefferson both came within an ace of trailing Harvard in the dust.

The reason the crimson rallied and did not fall was because of the man. It was because of him that Houghton is enabled to go on this year with the Brickley system of play unchanged. His name is Mahan—Eddie Mahan. He is captain of the Harvard team of 1915. There are many experts who believe that Eddie Mahan is a better football player than Charles Brickley ever was. They say Mahan does everything that Brickley ever did practically as well as Charles, and does several things immeasurably better.

Two facts were brought to mind recently at Cambridge when viewing Harvard playing against the University of Virginia. The first of these was that Houghton has built this year around Mahan as in 1912, 1913 and 1914 he did around Brickley. The second was that today Mahan is greater than Brickley was at his best.

In the husky southerner the crimson met a formidable rival, but at the same time a poorly balanced one. The Dixie boys had an impregnable line when danger threatened. In tackle (Thurman) they possess a punter of rare ability. But the Virginians were utterly devoid of the semblance of an attack.

Remember how the Houghton elevens of 1912, 1913 and 1914 would punt and punt and punt, then suddenly start an attack that would carry all before it in the center of the field. As it neared the enemy's goal posts it would fizzle out altogether. Why attack? There was Brickley! So Charles the Great would go back to the fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five or forty yard line and kick a goal from the field.

Eddie Mahan has taken up the white man's burden where Brickley laid it down. The two years he played with Brickley Eddie was perfectly capable of relieving Charles of much of the burden. But Brickley assumed it all until stricken last year.

The crimson backs swing around the end and jam through the line for five and ten yards as a clip from the center of the field to the twenty yard line. Then there is a halt. Where's Mahan? Good old Eddie! Why, a touchdown! Eddie will kick a goal from the field, just as Charles Brickley used to.

JEFF A COWARD, SAYS CHOYNSKI  
JOE CHOYNSKI is quoted in a story now going the rounds of the country as speaking in a decidedly slighting fashion of Jim Jeffries. "First of all, Joe moralizes on the decadence of the fist game, declaring that boxing is a lost art. He brands Willard as a joke champion, who could not have stood four rounds before any of the mixers of the old school.

Then he pays his respects to Jeffries, and in this wise:

"Jeffries was in perfect condition at Reno and should have licked a dozen Johnsons. He was trained to the minute, and all that talk about his being doped is bunk. Jeffries simply quit like a dog. He was afraid of the big black fellow and would not fight him. Fighters are born, and all great fighters fought because they loved the game. The exception was Jeffries. He fought because he was an artificial fighter. He liked money, and in the years he rested the little spark of fighting spirit he did have died. When he faced Joe he was as helpless as a babe, because his nerve had left him and he stood, one of the biggest cowards ever to enter the ring."

## CAPTAIN WILSON OF YALE IS GREAT PUNTER THIS SEASON



Photo by American Press Association.

CAPTAIN WILSON OF YALE.

Judging by the manner in which Captain Wilson of Yale has been punting during the practice, it looks as if he will be classed as the best toe artist of the blue squad this season. His punts are the longest seen on the Yale gridiron in some seasons.

## Young Taft Promising Back on Yale Eleven



Photo by American Press Association.

CHARLEY TAFT, son of former President Taft, who is getting a trial in back field on the Yale eleven, gives promise of developing into a star football player.

## REAL SKILL IS BEHIND STROKES OF FORTUNE IN FOOTBALL GAME

THERE is an ever growing proneness under the new rules in football to attribute too much to what is termed luck. Victories due, as was Harvard's over the Massachusetts Aggies recently, to an intercepted forward pass in the final moments of play are too often ascribed to mere good fortune. The query presents itself, Is there really any such thing as luck in football?

To him who battles on the gridiron the word luck, as applied to the "breaks of the game," is a base misnomer. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it is skill that makes the most out of a sudden break, a fumble, an intercepted pass. To the onlooker it appears like the earliest thing in the world for a runner to make forty or fifty yards to the goal line after intercepting a pass and nobody to stop him, but the close follower of the game knows better.

In the first place, it isn't the least difficult thing to get one's hands on a football intended for one of the other eleven fellows against whom the team is fighting. But once the player has intercepted the pass or picked up the fumble the fine work of the coaches comes in. The players are taught that just as soon as one of those "breaks of the game" pops up every man is to single out an opponent and fall on him with might and main. As a result, the player with the ball gets what appears to be a very lucky situation—a clear field.

"Shoestring" Plays Futile.

Close victories of big elevens over smaller ones—that of Princeton over Rutgers recently, for instance—are very often due to the "breaks of the game" that are the direct result of the reckless style of play adopted by the minor team. With everything to gain and nothing to lose, the small elevens have altogether too much recourse to "shoestring" plays, and when one of these plays is successful and converted into a touchdown the cry goes up—"Luck!"

A "shoestring" attack at best presents nothing more than a gambler's chance and leaves all kinds of openings for a break in favor of the other fellow. If Rutgers had relied more on its straight plays there might have been a different story, for, except at the ends and a quarterback, it presented a better developed combination.

Princeton more than any other big college has been said to have been the beneficiary of that misnomer "luck" in football. The Tiger coaches as far back as Bill Roper always taught their men to take advantage of the breaks, and, as a result, Old Nassau in its "preliminary" games has beaten many a more advanced eleven which it had no license to beat. The Dartmouth and

Williams contests last season are glaring examples. Some years ago Princeton developed a superspecialist in its specialty of taking advantage of the breaks. He was Sam White, who, through his ability to see a loose ball, pick it up and run for a touchdown, defeated both Yale and Harvard in 1911. White's dashes for scores from fumbles were not mere luck. They could not even be classed under "breaks of the game." They were football masterpieces begotten of the highest skill.

White's big asset, possessed by about one player in a thousand, was his ability to pick up a ball on the bound while he was running at top speed. Those who have tried know how difficult it is to get hold of the elusive pigskin when it begins its uneven career on the turf. However, White so perfected himself in that art that, unfortunately he could, going at full speed, pick up the ball instead of having to obey the time honored instructions to "fall on the ball when you see it loose."

White very early in his varsity experience realized that the chances for scoring from a fumble were very great if a player could get hold of the bounding ball. He then set to work developing his ability. He worked all by himself on dry fields, on wet fields, in the bright sunlight and in the twilight. He even went as far as to soak the ball in order to be able to handle the slippery pigskin, and he mastered it all too. Certainly that wasn't "luck."

RUGBY DOOMED IN AMERICA.  
As a leading branch of intercollegiate sport the game of Rugby is doomed to be doomed on the Pacific coast, its only stronghold in this country. The deathknell of the English game on this side of the water was practically sounded during the past summer when the University of California broke off athletic relations with Stanford university and the former turned back to the American form of play.

The action of these colleges came about presumably over the question of admitting freshmen to the athletic teams. Stanford held out for playing freshmen. All efforts of faculties, graduates and disinterested parties have so far failed to bring the colleges together so that a Rugby game could be played this fall.

heir example has been followed by nearly every school and club team.

Stanford university stands alone as the survivor in the attempt to maintain Rugby. At the university the faculty is determined that American football shall never be resumed. Leading students assert that even if the student body demanded the American game the authorities would not permit it, so strong have they been prejudiced against that style of play.

The "resumption" of the American football game on the Pacific coast and the bringing of eastern competition to that territory will bind the east and west more closely. The Pacific coast colleges which are going back to the American game cannot, of course, expect to draw eastern competition the first year of play, but with two or three years' development hope to be able to furnish competition worthy of the eastern teams.

BASEBALL NOT A FAMILY TRAIT.  
AN interesting question for baseball fans to discuss in their leisure moments away from the ball grounds is the seeming impossibility of two brothers attaining great success on the diamond at the same time. While there are in baseball this season three sets of brothers who are possessed of considerable ability—Bill Killifer of the Philadelphia Nationals and Wade Killifer of the Cincinnati Reds; Wally Schang of the Athletics and Bobbie Schang with the New York Giants; Fritz Mausel and George, who is a sensation in the New York State league and who will get a trial with Detroit next year, family failures have been more numerous.

Ty Cobb's brother Paul is only a fair minor leaguer. Christy Mathewson's brother Hank couldn't make a go of it; neither could Roger Bresnahan's brother Joe. Johnny Evers' brother Joe is a minor leaguer, and so is Ed Groh, a brother of Heinie of the Cincinnati Reds. Vean Gregg's younger brother was tried by Cleveland and sent back. Ed Walsh's brother looked good for a time, then went to the bushes. The same thing happened to Harry Camnitz, a brother of Howard, who started with Pittsburgh. George Tyler, the Boston Brave left hander, had a brother who was tried by Boston as a catcher and sent back.

## Harvard Rejoices When Enwright, Star Back Field Man, Returns. Expected to Be Star of Season



Photo by American Press Association.

THE return of Enwright, one of Harvard's star back field men, has been welcomed by the wearers of the crimson. He is one of the best backs in the game this season. With King, McKinlock and Mahan, in addition to Enwright, Coach Houghton has a wealth of back field material.